

the Internal Revenue Service. Simply put, American taxpayers are sick and tired of this out-of-control agency. The IRS has grown too large, too powerful, too aggressive, and too involved in the everyday lives of the American people.

Today the House will pass a series of bills to end this abuse, and we invite the U.S. Senate and the President to join us. Our bills will protect the hard-working taxpayers and hold the IRS employees accountable. We create a taxpayer bill of rights, ensuring the American taxpayers are treated with the respect that they deserve. We will take steps to end the politicization of the IRS, which abusively and illegally targeted conservative American citizens.

From lost emails to refusing to testify before Congress, the IRS abuses must end. I urge my colleagues to support these commonsense bills to bring transparency and accountability to this runaway agency.

ONE YEAR AFTER THE BOKO HARAM KIDNAPPING

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. I rise today in solidarity with the Nigerian people who are still terrorized by Boko Haram.

It has now been 1 year since 276 schoolgirls were abducted from their dorms and classrooms by Boko Haram. This militant terrorist group continues its violent attacks—kidnapping, rape, murder, and brutality—against children, women, and men.

One year ago the international community joined in the social media campaign #bringbackourgirls to raise awareness of this tragic kidnapping. We speak out today to say these girls have not been forgotten, as 219 of them remain missing, their fates unknown. Many American individuals and organizations as well as government leaders are continuing efforts to aid the Nigerian people who have been victimized and to prevent future violence.

We must keep in mind the atrocities committed by Boko Haram as we and our allies continue to fight extremist groups around the world.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that we have not yet succeeded in bringing back the 219 Nigerian girls abducted by Boko Haram on this day last year. For a moment, the plight of those young schoolgirls captured the attention of the world, spurred by millions of tweets and a hashtag that demanded justice, but as is so often the case with faces of color, their disappearance quickly left the headlines.

We can neither forget nor give up on these girls. Their abduction was a vio-

lent challenge to peace, to freedom, and to the right of every girl to choose to better herself through education.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in calling for a renewed effort to bring back those girls and to bring justice to those responsible.

GIRLS SHOULD NOT FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY WANT AN EDUCATION

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring back our girls. I recently returned from a bicameral delegation mission to several African countries, focusing on terrorist threats. The girls are still on everyone's minds, as are the increasingly frequent and violent attacks of Boko Haram.

With Boko Haram's recent alignment with ISIL, we must do more to counter the growing worldwide threat. We must work with the Nigerian Government and President Buhari, along with the Governments of Chad, Kenya, Cameroon, and any other nation willing to stand up and fight. Building partner capacity by assisting in military training and sharing intelligence will go a long way in the fight to end this cancer.

We must also ensure that the voices of women everywhere are elevated, not just in Nigeria, but around the world. Nowhere in this world should girls fear for their lives just because they want an education.

WE OWE TAXPAYERS A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans will take their hard-earned income through toil and labor and send a significant portion of that sweat equity to Washington, D.C., for this Congress to spend, sending trillions to continue to feed a bloated and inefficient government. According to the IRS, Americans have spent 6.1 billion hours and \$168 billion just simply having their tax returns prepared. These taxpayers bear a heavy burden for our actions here.

Last year our Federal Government took in more money from the American people than ever before. Washington doesn't have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem, which is easy for Congress because they are spending other people's money.

Americans expect, when they send their tax dollars to Washington, D.C., that we will be good stewards of that money, that we will treat it with the respect for the American people that worked hard to earn it and send it here.

So today, as Americans head to the post office to drop their returns before

the deadline, we owe them a great debt of gratitude; and in that, I ask that Congress renew its efforts to reduce spending, reform programs, balance our budget, and reduce the heavy weight of the tax burden on these hard-working American people.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, 1 day after the 1-year anniversary of the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls in Nigeria, I rise to encourage my colleagues here in Congress to continue in their efforts to help bring back our girls. We have protested, demonstrated, tweeted, and spoken about this issue on a number of occasions. Now, with a new Nigerian leader in place, I encourage Muhammadu Buhari to do all that is within his power to defeat Boko Haram and bring back our girls.

In an effort to improve the quality of life of their young daughters, can you imagine, as a parent, sending your child off to school and never seeing them again? This is the case for hundreds of families. This is not right. No family or child should feel threatened when it comes to improving their lives through education.

Therefore, as we continue to call for the total annihilation of Boko Haram, we should also use this moment to emphasize the importance of establishing safe learning environments for all children. I commend USAID and other human rights organizations for the work that they have done to accomplish this goal.

As a person of color, a mother, and an American, I urge you all to do much more to stop Boko Haram and promote safe, quality education for young girls and boys around the world.

TODAY IS TAX DAY

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Today is tax day, April 15, and one of the things that I wanted to bring to the attention of Congress, really, is the amount of waste and abuse that takes place not just within the bloated Federal Government, but within the IRS.

I serve as the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations. In this last go-around, we reduced—or cut, actually—the IRS' budget by about \$100 million to \$300 million. The IRS Commissioner was before us to tell us that that is too much; it is too much; it is too much; the sky is going to fall; we are not going to be able to process returns; we are not going to be able to give taxpayers assistance.

But what needs to be told on this floor, Mr. Speaker, is that the IRS sends out tens of billions of misapplied

or fraudulent payments—tens of billions. This has to stop. It is not an issue of not making sure that people pay their taxes.

I am all for making sure that things are applied fairly and equitably, but we have an obligation of responsibility to make sure that money is spent appropriately and efficiently or safeguarded. It is not our money.

I just wanted, today, to take the opportunity to recognize the hard-working moms and dads, individuals across this country who have written their check to Uncle Sam, and they expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned dollars.

There are a few bills we are working on this week I urge this body to pass. Whether it is balancing the budget or making sure that we eliminate the death tax, we will have our opportunity to make sure that we are holding the Federal Government accountable.

□ 1230

WATER WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our most precious natural resource: water.

It is Water Week here in D.C.; but in the San Joaquin Valley, in California, it is always Water Week.

At first glance at this picture, you might think this was taken in an underdeveloped country thousands of miles away. It is not. These are the squalid living conditions in California's San Joaquin Valley. They are a direct result of the extreme lack of water in California.

While, in part, the drought is to blame, our inability to move the limited water is exacerbating the crisis. While conditions like these are unacceptable, I think to all of us in the richest country in the world, we must do something about it.

It takes water to grow food, period. California grows half the Nation's fruits and vegetables and more, but this year, some estimates say that 1 million acres out of 6 million acres usually in production will be fallowed.

In the short term, we need to act on operational flexibility to deal with this crisis. In the long term, it is time that we fix this broken water system not just for California, but for the West and for the entire world to whom we provide a large part of the food supply. This is the challenge of the 21st century.

TACKLING THE TAX CODE

(Mr. HARDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that has ham-

pered the growth and prosperity for both individuals and businesses.

Our economy continues to struggle. Our Tax Code shouldn't be working against us. Each year, hard-working Americans have to navigate the Internal Revenue Code, which stands at tens of thousands of pages. Moreover, the agency charged with collecting taxes from Americans has been scrutinizing and delaying critical paperwork for conservative groups.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to advance the conversation surrounding the comprehensive tax reform. From the individual Code to the corporate tax system, reform needs to result in a fairer, flatter system that works for Americans and their businesses, not against them.

As we labor through another tax day, it is a reminder, Mr. Speaker, that we haven't addressed the Code in close to 30 years. We have the ability to tackle the Tax Code only if we are willing to make hard decisions.

ADOPT A LONG-TERM HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL

(Mr. DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in 45 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money. That means that 90 percent of the road projects in this country will grind to a halt. That is a national tragedy, particularly when there are numerous bipartisan proposals in this Congress to deal with the situation.

Rather than just focusing on the macro statistics, we decided to reach out to my constituents and find out what they think about America's infrastructure. We received hundreds and hundreds of responses detailing all the problems my constituents have with long commute times, concrete falling down from bridges and hitting their windshields, and water interruptions.

We cannot let this happen in the United States of America in the year 2015. I encourage this Congress to adopt a long-term highway funding bill and stop with short-term measures that just delay the inevitable.

Let's invest in America's future; let's invest in our infrastructure, and let's stop Americans from having the problems that they have to deal with day in and day out with an underinvested, aging, decrepit infrastructure.

BOKO HARAM

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with my colleagues to focus the attention of the world on the 276 young women who were kidnapped by Boko Haram—219 whose whereabouts remain unknown—in Chibok, Nigeria, just a year ago in April.

This kidnapping, this act of terrorism, was an attack on the basic human rights of women and girls to participate in the civil society, in this instance by attending school to develop their individual talents and God-given potential.

These young women were violently abducted for the explicit purpose of preventing their full participation in the civil society of Nigeria.

Now, a year after their kidnapping, these young women are still missing, and Boko Haram continues to terrorize the people of west Africa, forcing millions of people to flee their home and undermining the foundations of democracy.

We must continue in our efforts to find these girls and bring their abductors to justice. The destabilization of Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad has implications for the entire continent of Africa and, indeed, the world.

We have called on the community of nations to bring back our girls.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what you have seen today is the powerful impact of the women of the United States Congress.

Earlier today, we joined on the steps of the United States Capitol; and in that area that we joined with the young girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, women of faith, and many other advocates, we stood there, arm-in-arm, listening to the stories of those young girls who jumped out of trucks and escaped the violence of Boko Haram and their very thuggish leader.

The Boko Haram are terrorists. A year ago, they stole the "world's girls." I led a delegation, joined by my colleagues, to Nigeria. In that effort, we saw the families who were crying and broken. We protested at the Nigerian Embassy and made a direct call to the then President to ask him to denounce Boko Haram.

Today, we have been on the floor. Working with my colleagues, we have continuously said: bring the girls back.

Mr. Speaker, in Nigeria, 15,000 have been killed because of Boko Haram. Also, 1.5 million are displaced persons, 800,000 of which are children.

I end my remarks by saying: bring the girls back. I am delighted to have been with Congresswoman MALONEY and Congresswoman WILSON. We will never give up on bringing the girls back. They are the world's girls. They are our girls.

THE GIRLS OF CHIBOK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the 1-